



World Learning

South and Central Asian Region Legislative Fellows Program

Program funded by the U.S. Department of State

Application Form

Please submit the application via email to:

vladimir.spencer@worldlearning.org
amanda.bischoping@worldlearning.org

Submission Deadline
November 15, 2012

Dear Applicants,

To strengthen the understanding of the U.S. legislative branch and civil society's role in the political process, and foster relationships among Asian and American institutions, World Learning (WL) will implement, in 2013, the South and Central Asia-Region Legislative Fellows Program (LFP), a two-way exchange project for professionals and young leaders from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tajikistan and the U.S. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of State. WL is an American educational and development organization with many decades of training, exchange, and youth leadership development experience. Through the program, 48 young emerging leaders from the eleven Asian countries and 22 young emerging leaders from the U.S. will gain knowledge and leadership skills to become more engaged in their communities, and get to know each other's country, as well as learn about each group members' ethnically, religiously, and nationally diverse background.

The South and Central Asian Region Legislative Fellows Program (LFP) will increase institutional capacity in local and national governments and political organizations. Through experiential activities, discussion, site visits, training modules, and professional fellowships, participants will have the opportunity to increase their understanding of the U.S. legislative process while engaging in civic life in the United States. Participants from the eleven countries and the United States will explore facets unique to each country's history and identity, and engage in discussion and educational activities that promote learning on an academic and a personal level. Following are themes and topics related to legislation and governance that may be included in the program, as well as those proposed by participants – multiculturalism, ethnic/religious tolerance, social justice, emerging democracies, grassroots democracy, freedom of the press, environment, building civil society, transparency and government oversight, conflict resolution, economic development, worker rights, and the role of women. The program goals are as follows. Participants will:

- Gain an understanding of the U.S. legislative and political process
- Explore governance principles and practices in both public and civil society institutions in the U.S.
- Enhance their appreciation for the role of civil society in the political process
- Gain a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, and people
- Gain a deeper understanding of the societies, cultures, and people of other countries in their region
- Develop and implement projects or programs in their home country that promote good governance, civil society, and democratic institutions
- Effect positive change in their workplaces and communities
- Increase regional cooperation among governments and civil society
- Create linkages between American and Asian governments, institutions, and citizens

April 13-May 11, 2013 (tentative dates), **the first group of 24 grantees from the eleven countries will participate in a four-week U.S. experiential program (to be repeated in October-November 2013 for the other 24 grantees)** that includes fellowships, interactive

seminars, site visits, and synthesis discussions. In-country workshop tours, consultations and short-term internships by American grantees will take place in the summer of 2013 and the spring of 2014. The U.S. programs will begin with an orientation in Washington, DC focusing on U.S. history, legislative process, and diversity. Following is a three-week fellowship in several U.S. cities, which includes professional assignments, seminars, homestays, and volunteerism. The final segment brings the groups back to Washington, DC for the Fellows' Congress including high-level meetings with government and Congress, and a final evaluation.

Accommodation will include double-person hotel rooms and home-stays with American families and peers. A small stipend will be provided during the participants' time in the United States to cover basic living expenses. The cost of international and domestic travel, program related ground transportation, cultural activities, and all the other programmatic and logistical arrangements will be covered.

Candidates will be **mid-level professionals (ages 25-40) with experience in the legislative process and/or advocacy work that involves legislative efforts. Such experience can have been attained through their work in government, civic education organizations, citizen advocacy groups, political campaigns, political parties, or election monitoring organizations. We seek candidates with excellent interpersonal and communication skills, proven leadership abilities, and a commitment to the program and follow-on activities. Those selected will come from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, organizations and political parties. We also aim for gender balance. Strong English language skills are required as the participants will need to converse about complex political and global issues with US peers and experts.** To select the best candidates, we will review applications based on clearly defined criteria, including:

- Openness to dialogue and new ideas
- Good potential to play an increasingly important role in the society;
- Proven commitment to nonviolence; and
- Interest in participating in the program and sharing the experience with colleagues and the public.

Preference would be given to applicants with relevant professional achievements who have not previously visited the United States. The candidates should be able and willing to host American counterparts, for up to a week, and design, arrange, and coordinate, under WL and its partners' supervision, a local professional and cultural program for the American participants.

Please find the application form below. The application must be completed in English. **The deadline for submitting the application is November 12, 2012.** Applications will be reviewed and considered as they arrive. Early applications are encouraged. We appreciate your interest in this project and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Vlad Spencer
Manager, Development & Innovation
World Learning's Exchanges and Training Unit

U.S. EXCHANGE PROGRAM APPLICATION

Applications should be in English and e-mailed with the subject line “Legislative Fellows” to:

Mr. Vlad Spencer

E-mail: vladimir.spencer@worldlearning.org

Ms. Amanda Bischooping

E-mail: amanda.bischoping@worldlearning.org

For more information on program specifics, contact the office or e-mail addresses above. Please answer **ALL** questions.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 15, 2012

THIS APPLICATION FORM IS FREE OF CHARGE AND MAY BE DUPLICATED

INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

Name

LAST

First

Middle

Permanent address

Permanent telephone (and cell)

E-mail where you can be most

easily contacted:

Gender (male or female):

Date of birth (month/day/year):

Place of birth (city, country):

Do you have a valid passport?

Marital
Status:

Where did you first hear about this program? (Please be as specific as possible.)

Have you previously traveled to the United States? If yes, please indicate time and circumstances.

PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION (Take as much room as you need to write your answers. If necessary, attach another sheet of paper.)

Name of employer _____

Your Job Title _____

Full work address _____

Work Telephone _____

Work Fax _____

E-mail address _____

Supervisor's name _____

Describe your job responsibilities

OTHER PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

List your other job titles (if any), employer, years at position

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PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

List your previous job titles, employer, and years at position (up to 3 previous positions)

EDUCATION (INCLUDING CURRENT WORK-IN-PROGRESS DEGREES)

Please list any degrees or diplomas earned, name of school, year received

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MEMBERSHIPS

Please list any memberships or affiliations that you have

LANGUAGES

How would you describe your English skills?

Comprehension:	Excellent _____	Good _ ____	Adequate _____	Poor _____
Reading:	Excellent _____	Good _ ____	Adequate _____	Poor _____
Speaking:	Excellent _____	Good _ ____	Adequate _____	Poor _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION (Take as much room as you need to write your answers. If necessary, attach another sheet of paper.)

Please tell us about yourself (personal history, interests, reasons for being interested in the program, interesting facts we need to know about you).

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM-RELATED QUESTIONS

1. What do you expect to learn and accomplish during the exchange program? How would your participation in the program enhance your professional career and personal development?
2. You'll be expected to host a visiting American peer and arrange a professional program in your community. Please explain what kind of local activities should be included in such a program in order for the American visitor to better understand your country's political system and its culture.
3. In order to contribute to sustainable professional growth and have a multiplying effect in your country and the U.S., the exchange program should identify projects and initiatives that young emerging leaders from both our countries could develop during and after the program, dealing with various aspects of politics and legislative affairs. What kind of follow-on activities and projects would you like to see implemented with support from your American counterpart?

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Are you willing to share hotel rooms and be in home-stays during your U.S. trip?

Could you arrange, under World Learning's supervision, a professional/cultural program for an American counterpart, during his/her stay in your country?

Are you willing to participate in all stages of the program, including working on follow-on projects with your American counterparts?

Are you available to participate, either in person or via skype or yahoo messenger, in a selection interview in the second part of November 2012?

I agree that all of the information in this application is true and I agree that if chosen, I will participate in ALL program activities in the United States and in my country, including the pre-departure orientation and follow-on activities.

Applicant Signature

Date

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application. Good luck!

*This program is funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs,
Office of Citizen Exchanges, Professional Fellows Division.*